

**Minutes
Tri-County Retreat
Mahoney State Park-Red Oak Conference Room
Friday, November 14, 2003
9:00 A.M.**

In Attendance:

Lancaster County

Bernie Heier, Commissioner
Larry Hudkins, Commissioner
Deb Schorr, Commissioner
Ray Stevens, Commissioner
Bob Workman, Commissioner
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk
Patricia Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Gordon Kissel, Lobbyist
Amy Prenda, Lobbyist
Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Director

Douglas County

Mike Boyle, Commissioner
Clare Duda, Commissioner
Carole Woods Harris, Commissioner
Carol McBride Pirsch, Commissioner
Kathleen Kelly, Chief Administrative Officer
Patrick Bloomingdale, Assistant Administrator
Tom Cavanaugh, County Clerk
Sherri Larsen, County Clerk's Office
Kristin Lynch, Administrative Specialist
Joe Kohout, Lobbyist

Sarpy County

Inez Boyd, Commissioner
Jack Postlewiatt, Commissioner
Aldona Doyle, Commissioner
Tim Gay, Commissioner
Mark Wayne, Chief Administrative Officer
Fred Uhe, Deputy County Clerk/Lobbyist
Brian Hanson, Fiscal Administrator
Deb Houghtaling, County Clerk

Tom Shaw-Omaha World Herald Reporter

(1). Criminal Justice Costs

Mark Wayne, Chief Administrative Officer for Sarpy County distributed agenda packets with information on Sarpy County's cost for their Juvenile Justice programs. He indicated their increased costs seem directly proportional to their increase in programs offered.

Kerry Eagan, Lancaster County Chief Administrative Officer discussed the F3 program, warning of hidden costs associated with handling these programs on a County level.

Kathy Kelly, Chief Administrative Officer for Douglas County discussed Region 6 handling their ICCU program. She additionally informed the group that their Juvenile Assessment Center had been operational for the last month.

Kristin Lynch, Administrative Specialist for Douglas County discussed the model Douglas County is using and the three funding streams they are taking advantage of.

Dave Kroeker, Lancaster County Budget and Fiscal Director, distributed a handout of Lancaster County's costs for their criminal justice programs.

(2). Legislative Issues

Fred Uhe, Sarpy County Lobbyist, Gordon Kissel and Amy Prenda, Lancaster County Lobbyists and Joe Kohout, Douglas County Lobbyist discussed some of the upcoming legislative issues. Discussion was held on the short session and what could realistically be accomplished. Consensus was that this would be a 'defensive' year with regard to protection of funding streams.

General discussion about potential storm water runoff legislation was held with Sarpy indicating this legislation could result in over a million dollars in increased costs.

Eagan indicated that Lancaster County was concerned with what the new mental health system would look like.

Douglas County discussed that they had their 'go-live' for the 800 MHZ radio system a couple of months ago.

General discussion was held on ordinance authority, road funding protection and the proposed fifty cent additional E911 surcharge for wireless cell phones for Counties.

The CIR was discussed and Eagan discussed the State of Iowa's program which includes the provision of 'ability to pay' and arbitration procedures. Douglas County indicated they were not aware of Iowa's CIR policies and they would investigate the program further.

(3). Health Insurance Costs

General discussion was held on the issue of increasing health insurance costs. Mark Wayne, Sarpy County, indicated that Sarpy does offer a supplemental policy but the total costs are borne by the employee.

Discussion was held on the concept of a combined risk pool between Douglas, Sarpy and Lancaster Counties. The issue of a joint consultant to study the feasibility of this idea was discussed.

General discussion on the impact of rising pharmaceuticals was held.

(4). Insurance Requirements for Contractors

General discussion was held on each counties philosophies on contractor insurance requirements. Sarpy indicated that generally they require a \$2,000,000 general aggregate, but are flexible with regard to the type of contract entered into. Eagan commented that if they are truly independent contractors the counties would incur no tort liability so meeting the \$5,000,000 tort exposure would not necessarily be necessary.

(5). Mergers

Mark Wayne, Sarpy County, discussed the proposed merger of the Sarpy and Douglas Counties Register of Deeds offices. Wayne indicated that at first blush there did not appear to be any real efficiencies in doing so, but the study was on-going. Larry Hudkins, Lancaster County Commissioner, discussed Lancaster County's merger of their Register of Deeds and Assessor offices. Hudkins indicated that while some efficiencies may have been gained, the cost savings they were hoping for have not yet materialized. General discussion was also held on the benefits of interlocal agreements as opposed to mergers.

(6). County Fair

Douglas County indicated they would not be holding a separate county fair this year. General discussion was held on associated costs with holding county fairs. Discussion was also held on the issue of the State Fair.

(7). High Speed Internet Access

General discussion was held on the issue of providing high speed internet access to County Commissioners. Douglas County indicated they do not have computers for their Commissioners in their offices. Lancaster indicated they did, but they were not state of the art systems. General discussion about provision of high speed internet services to rural areas was held. Eagan discussed LB485 indicating that this was poor legislation which greatly restricted government use of telecom infrastructure.

(8). Open Discussion

General discussion was held on 'paperless' board meetings. Lancaster County Commissioners indicated that due to the amount of materials for each meeting they still preferred hard copies of the back up meeting documentation.

With no further items on the agenda the Tri-County meeting for 2003 was adjourned.



Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk

